

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 OST-04

RSC-01 SCI-06 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 SS-14 RSR-01 /135 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7181

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: ABS MARCH 27, 1974

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE LEGAL: BILATERALS WITH USSR

1. SUMMARY: US- USSR BILATERALS MAR 26 HAD
GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE. SOV REPS INDICATED HOPE
FOR QUICK COMPROMISE ON UNRESOLVED MOON TREATY ISSUES AND
WERE CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE TOWARD US DRAFT REGISTRATION TEXT.

2. DETAILS. US AND USSR DELS MET AA MAR 26 FOR INFORMAL
DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS PRECEDING OPENING
SESSION OF UN OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC).
USSR (PIRADOV) ASKED FOR US POSITION ON REGISTRATION OF
SPACE OBJECTS AND EXPLANATION OF US DRAFT CONVENTION,
REVISED COPY OF WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED TO SOVS WEEK
PREVIOUSLY. US (REIS) BRIEFLY REVIEWED OUR POSITION AT
1972 LSC AND SAID US HAD BEGUN DEVELOPING OWN TEXT IN
SUMMER 1972 BECAUSE IT APPEARED UNLIKELY THAT
CANADIAN- FRENCH DRAFT CONSIDERED BY LSC COULD FORM
BASIS FOR AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ENTIRE SUBCOMMITTEE
AND ESPECIALLY TO MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

3. OBSERVING THAT US HAD SOUGHT MOSCOW' S REACTION TO OUR
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ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT IN SEPTEMBER BUT THIS HAD NEVER BEEN
CONVEYED , REIS EXPLAINED SEVERAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

THAT TEXT AND PRESENT DRAFT. HE NOTED THAT US TEXT ESSENTIALLY REPRESENTED CONVERSION OF PRESENT UN SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY REPORTING INTO ONE MANDATING SUCH REPORTS. REIS CONTINUED THAT US AND, USSR AS PRIMARILY INTERESTED POWRS, SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASSUME TREATY OBLIGATION TO MAKE REPORTS BOTH COUNTRIES HAD SUBMITTED VOLUNTARILY FOR PAST TEN YEARS.

4. TOLD THAT US HAD PASSED NEW TEXT TO CANADA AND FRANCE AMONG OTHERS, PIRADOV ASKED ABOUT CO- SPONSORS' REACTION. WE REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NONE SO FAR FROM FRANCE; CANADA WHILE RECEIVING NEWS OF US INTENTION TO TABLE ITS OWN TEXT WITH MIXED FEELINGS, HAD ESSENTIALLY SEEMED MORE RECEPTIVE TOWARD NEW DRAFT THAN HAD BEEN CASE WITH US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT. WE EMPHASIZED WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN IDENTIFICATION OF OUR TEXT AS "AMERICAN" AND WOULD WELCOME SUPPORT AND EVEN CO- SPONSORSHIP FROM AS MANY LSC MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING USSR.

5. PIRADOV COMMENTED AS " FIRST IMPRESSION" THAT US DRAFT WAS POSITIVE EFFORT, CAREFULLY WORKED OUT. " SUBJECT TO FEW DETAILS," HE SAID, HE THOUGHT USSR COULD SUPPORT IT. AS MATTER OF " RECIPROCITY," COULD US SUPPORT SOVIET COMPROMISE PROPOSALS ON MOON TREATY? USSR HOPED LSC COULD REACH ACCEPTABLE " MODUS VIVENDI" ON AGREED TEXT AT CURRENT SESSION. REIS RESPONDED THAT US SAW NO REASON AGAINST COMPLETING WORK ON BOTH TOM AND REGISTRATION AT SESSION.

6. USSR (MAIORSKI) THEN REVIEWED MAIN AREAS OF NON- AGREEMENT ON TOM. (A) HE SAID USSR WANTED TO CONDIGN SOLUTION OF SCOPE AND TITLE QUESTION ON AGREEMENT ON OTHER ISSUES, IN WHICH CASE, HE SAID, " WE' LL BE FLEXIBLE." (B) SOV REMAINED RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT " COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" CONCEPT RE NATURAL RESOURCES AS " MUST." CONCEPT, MAIORSKI SAID, HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG SV EXPERTS INCLUDING SEABEDS AUTHORITIES AND NO ONE COULD DISCERN ITS MEANING. AS COMPROMISE, HOWEVER, " COMMON HERITAGE" CONCEPT COULD BE LINKED WITH PROVISION FOR FUTURE CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL NORMS FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES WHEN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REALISTIC POSSIBILITY. (C) ON NOTIFICATION OF MISSIONS, USSR PREPARED TO GIVE EXHAUSTIVE INFORMATION ON MISSION PLANS IMMEDIATELY AFTER LAUNCH AND RESULTS, INCLUDING SCIENTIFIC, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF MISSION.

7. REIS REPLIED THAT WE COULD OF COURSE NOT GIVE IMMEDIATE REACTION TO USSR VIEWS ON ABOVE ISSUES,

BUT REPEATED US OPTIMISM THAT SOLUTION SHOULD BE WITHIN
REACH.
SCHAUFLE

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